

REMARKS

In the *final* Office Action, dated July 12, 2004, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-12, 15-20, 22-24 and 26, and has objected to claims 4-5, 13-14 and 25. By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claims 4, 13-14 and 25, and has amended claims 1, 5, 8, 17 and 20. After the present amendment, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 15-20, 22-24 and 26 are pending in the present application. An early notice of allowance for pending claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 15-20, 22-24 and 26 in view of the following remarks is requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 17, and 19 under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 17, and 19 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,628,529 to Borth, et al. ("Borth"). Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 4. Based on the Examiner's statement that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the its base claim, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Further, claims 3 and 5-7 depend from claim 1, and should be allowed at least for the same reason claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, applicant has also amended claim 17 to include limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 and its dependent claim 19 are also in condition for allowance.

B. Rejection of Claims 2 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious with respect to Borth in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,812,970 to Chan, et al. (“Chan”). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 18 depend from independent claims 1 and 17, respectively, and thus, claims 2 and 18 should be allowed at least for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with patentability of independent claims 1 and 17.

C. Rejection of Claims 8-12, 15-16, 20, 22-24 and 26 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-12, 15-16, 20, 22-24 and 26 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious with respect to Chan in view of Hab-Umbach, et al. (USPN 5,956,678) (“Hab-Umbach”), and further in view of Borth.

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended claim 8 to include all of the limitations of claim 13. Based on the Examiner’s statement that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the its base claim, applicant respectfully

submits that claim 8, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Further, claims 9-12 and 14-16 depend from claim 8, and should be allowed at least for the same reason claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

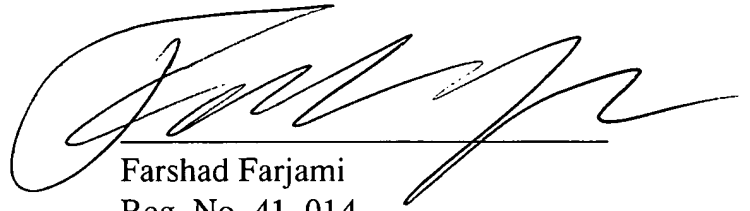
Also, applicant has amended claim 20 to include all of the limitations of claim 25. Based on the Examiner's statement that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the its base claim, applicant respectfully submits that claim 20, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Further, claims 22-24 and 26 depend from claim 20, and should be allowed at least for the same reason claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

D. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance for claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 15-20, 22-24 and 26 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
FARJAMI & FARJAMI LLP

Date: 7/23/04

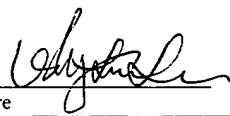

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